

No Last Time for Pastime

By Dick McCann

Will there be baseball next season?

Because of heavier demands for manpower, both on the home and fighting fronts, we have heard and we have asked this question with increasing frequency as the 1942 season wheezes down the home stretch. Off-hand, you might think the question is utterly unimportant when there are such burning queries as "How did the Marines do in the Solomons today?" and "What do you hear from the Aleutians?" and "Is Stalingrad still holding out?" But we have seen too many hundreds of thousands of Americans within the past month forget their wartime worries at ball parks to consider baseball's future unimportant.

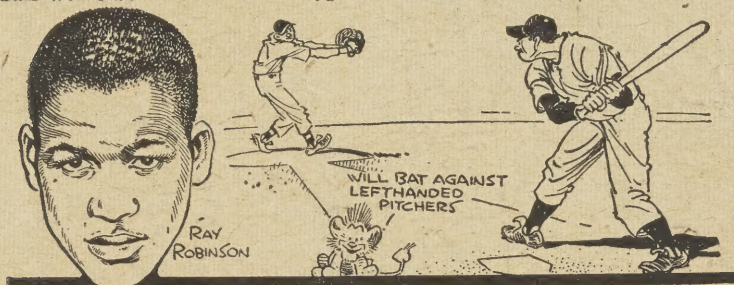
So, on our tours, we have asked various authorities—both in and out of baseball—if they believe there will be another baseball season. The consensus is: Yes. There is only one "if" tied onto the answer . . . "if we aren't losing the war." One Washington official told us it is his impression the Government considers baseball the perfect form of wartime entertainment. . . . "It is economical in these days when citizens must be careful how they spend their money. It is healthful, because it gets war workers out in the fresh air and sun, and health is more important than ever before today. And it is refreshing relaxation. It whisks folks away from their cares for a couple of hours or so," this official explained.

There'll be numerous changes, however. Practically all of the minor leagues will be forced to shut down because most of the players are young, unmarried men. Under new and increasingly drastic draft demands, many major leaguers will be taken into the armed forces. Some gaps will be filled by left-over players from Double-A leagues like the International or American Association, which may be forced to shut down. But baseball is prepared to take care of the shortage by reducing the limit of their squads. Connie Mack, for instance, believes rosters will be limited to 20, as compared to today's 25-man limit. Clark Griffith thinks the season will be shortened two weeks. However, 154 games will be played, thus necessitating more double-headers. The gaudy Spring training "grind" will be shortened and possibly eliminated.



Although it doesn't matter, none of these changes should affect major league baseball much. Shortened schedule? . . . Some club owners have agitated for this for years, pointing to the annual drop in attendance in the waning weeks. Increased double-headers? . . . Most owners have gone in more and more for twin bills because attendance is twice what it would be at single games and the overhead is about one-half. No training trip? . . . Hold-outs like Red Ruffing, who was a 20-game winner although he forsook Florida's sun, have proved the training camp's value has been confined to its ballyhoo. Smaller squads? . . . This will just mean that lefthanded hitters will have to bat against lefthanded pitchers and pitchers will have to work oftener.

Reduction of rosters should help the weaker, poorer clubs and make for better pennant races. Fastidious managers with heavy backing won't be able to lug around two sets of outfielders and infielders to alternate against this and that kind of pitching. Wealthy clubs like the Yankees, who have usually had better men on their bench than many clubs have had on the field, will have to release most of this tethered talent to graze in other pastures. Money-making outfits like the Dodgers, who have been able to carry spot pitchers around for bi-monthly appearances, will have to either get rid of them . . . or make them work against teams other than their "cousins." All around utility men like Babe Dahlgren (any infield spot) and Max Macon (pitch, first or outfield) will become most valuable. And medical men will be amazed at the sudden disappearance of bursitis . . . that fashionable, keeping-up-with-the-Jones' ailment which so many pitchers enjoyed in past seasons. With every seat on the bench as valuable as a Stock Exchange pew in the old days, baseball won't be able to afford hypochondriacs.



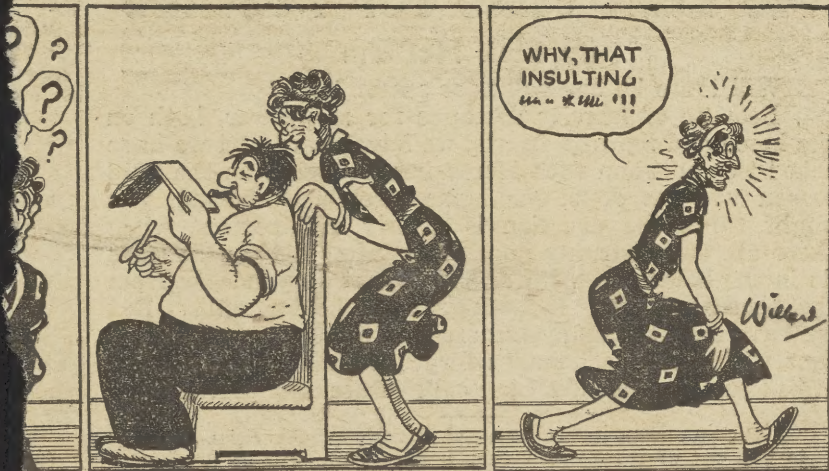
Dot's All: After belting that tremendous "foul" homer into the upper rightfield deck at Yankee Stadium on War Relief Day, Babe Ruth waddled back to the Yank dugout, grinned and snorted derisively at the players: "That ought to make you guys quit beefing about a dead ball!" . . . Ray Robinson's feud with Manager Curt Horrmann was reported by this observer a year ago—and violently denied by both. Ray now insists on making his own matches and collecting his own money . . . Is it true Yale's football players were members of the ROTC encamped at New Haven this Summer and worked out every day? . . . Tex Sullivan is busier these days than a guy beating off a swarm of bees—he has a corner on the fight publicity market, being press agent for the Queensboro, Westchester County Center, Ridgewood Grove and St. Nick's.

BASEBALL
POLO GROUNDS
TODAY, 3 P.M.
Tax .10
Ser. Chgo. .15
Ladies' Day .25
CHICAGO vs. GIANTS

BASEBALL
EBBETS FIELD
TODAY 3 P. M.
ST. LOUIS vs. BROOKLYN

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pitcher
(2-2)



Comic section of the SUNDAY NEWS

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Schroeder Wins

Indianapolis, Sept. 10 (U.P.).—Ted Schroeder Jr., national singles tennis champion, of Glendale, Calif.,

staged a sizzling third-set rally today in an exhibition match at the Woodstock Country Club to defeat Francisco Segura, Ecuadorean star, 6-0, 6-4, 6-1.

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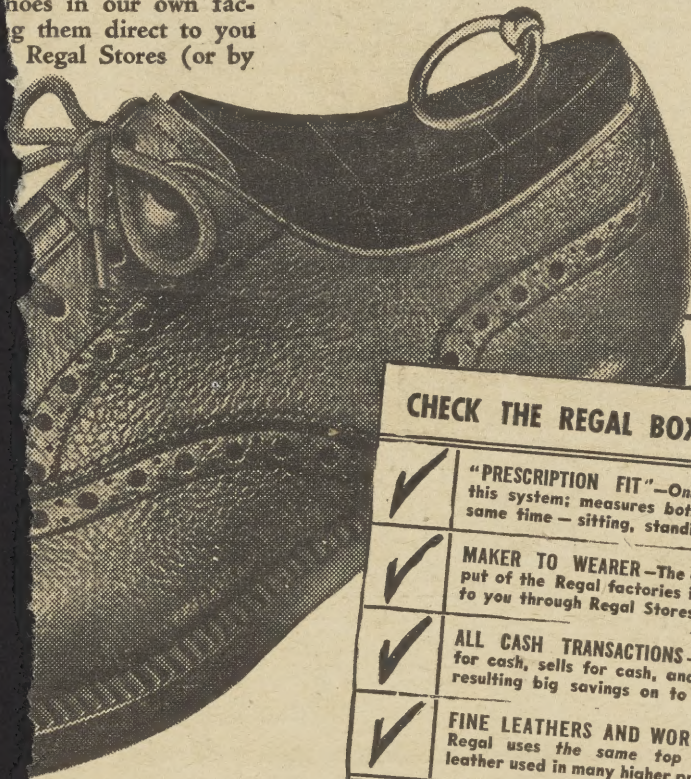
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